

**Lieutenant Governor John Garamendi Celebrates
Launch of Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory's
National Ignition Facility**



SACRAMENTO – Lieutenant Governor John Garamendi, chair of the Commission for Economic Development, joined Senator Dianne Feinstein, Representative Ellen Tauscher, Representative Zoe Lofgren, University of California President Mark Yudof, and other dignitaries, elected officials and invited guests at Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory for today's dedication of the National Ignition Facility (NIF) celebrating the 192-beam laser.

"The dedication of the National Ignition Facility at Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory is a watershed event opening a new era of scientific research into the nature of our universe and, quite possibly, the era of fusion power. This project will create thousands of jobs and could very well lead to the world's most important scientific advance since the Human Genome Project," said Lt. Governor Garamendi.

The NIF's initial task will be to provide a better understanding of the safety and reliability of our

nation's nuclear weapons. This will be accomplished by an array of lasers focusing intense beams of light on a BB-sized pellet of pure hydrogen. The resulting impact on the pellet will fuse the hydrogen creating the same fusion that powers the sun.

"This is cutting edge research that will help put graduates from California's universities and community college systems to work," added Garamendi, a University of California regent and California State University trustee.

Researchers involved with the ignition facility believe this fusion technology could handle U.S. energy needs for more than 1,000 years. Because of this research, Livermore could be the focal point for a new clean energy industry.